

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled "Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy" transmitting this worksheet and the "Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet" located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

A. BLM Office: Klamath Falls R.A. OR-014 **Permit/Lease:** #361064

Proposed Action Title/Type: The proposed action is to renew an expiring 10-year grazing permit/lease (#361064) for the Swan Lake Ranch for approximately 6,448 acres of BLM administered land known as the Swan Lake Rim Allotment (0858). The permit/lease expires on 2/28/2003 and is being renewed in accordance with the grazing regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §4110.1; §4110.2-1(a)(1) & (c); §4110.2-2(a); §4130.2; and §4130.3; and other pertinent policy and guidance.

Location of Proposed Action: The BLM Section 15 (Taylor Grazing Act) administered lands that comprise the Swan Lake Rim allotment are located 10-15 miles northeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon and runs the length of Swan Lake Rim just east of Swan Lake Valley (see attached map). In addition to the BLM lands, there are variable though large amounts of private lands grazed in common with the BLM lands. The allotment is grazed on a three pasture, rest-rotation system where one of the three pastures is fully rested each year.

Description of the Proposed Action: The term of the renewed permit/lease will be 3/1/2003 through 2/28/2013; 10 years as authorized by the current grazing regulations at §4130.2(d). This permit/lease could be changed in the future and reissued with different parameters, if information from a future *Rangeland Health Standards Assessment* (to be discussed later) determines such or future policy or laws dictate different grazing management. The parameters of the renewed grazing permit would be the same as the previous permit and as follows:

<u>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK</u>	<u>GRAZING PERIOD</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Swan Lake Rim (0858)	150 cattle	5/1 - 6/30	300 AUMs

Applicant (if any): Swan Lake Ranch (James Carroll - owner; Will Sites – ranch manager).
 Permit/lease renewal application sent 8/27/02, but not returned.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name*: *Klamath Falls R.A. Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994)
 Date Approved: June 1995 via the *Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary* (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)
 Other document**: None

- * List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).
 **List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

☒ **The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:**

The KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62 to “*Provide for livestock grazing in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with other objectives and land use allocations. Resolve resource conflicts and concerns and **ensure that livestock grazing use is consistent with the objectives and direction found in Appendix H (Grazing Management)***” (emphasis added). Also later on that same page is the following: “*Provide for initial levels of livestock grazing within the parameters outlined, by allotment, in Appendix H.*”

The KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS - Appendix H - lists the grazing parameters for the Horton allotment on page H-45. The parameters for the proposed action (permit/lease renewal) are the same as the past grazing permit/lease and the same as that listed in the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS.

☐ **The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:**

Not Applicable - the action is specifically provided for in the LUP.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Klamath Falls R.A. Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994) approved via the June 1995 *Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary* (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS). This is the overall land use plan (LUP) for the Klamath Falls Resource Area.

Klamath Falls Resource Area Fire Management EA #OR-014-94-09 (June 10, 1994)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard’s assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

In 1995, the grazing on this allotment was determined by the BLM to be a “no-effect” impact to the two endangered sucker species in the Klamath Basin.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action (permit/lease re-issuance) is consistent with, if not identical to, the grazing

management identified in the KFRA RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative - called the "Proposed Resource Management Plan" or PRMP (also called the "Final RMP/EIS"). Specifics by allotment are found in Appendix L, with the Horton allotment on page L-45. The preferred alternative was affirmed and implemented by the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS, where the allotment specific information is found in Appendix H, page H-45. Environmental impacts of grazing, for all alternatives, are found in Chapter 4 - "Environmental Consequences" (4-1 through 4-143) - of the KFRA RMP/EIS. Since the proposed action (permit/lease renewal grazing parameters) and Swan Lake Rim allotment were specifically analyzed in the plan, the answer to this NEPA adequacy question must be yes.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action (permit/lease renewal) lies within the range of various alternatives identified and analyzed in the KFRA RMP/EIS (summarized in table S-1 "Comparisons of Allocations and Management by Alternative", pages 18-50; and S-2 "Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative", pages 52-53). This array and range of alternatives included the No Action alternative (status quo); five other alternatives (A through E) that covered a span of management from a strong emphasis on commodities production to a strong emphasis on resource protection/preservation; and the PRMP that emphasizes a balanced approach of producing an array of socially valuable products within the concept of ecosystem management. Since this plan is relatively recent (1995), it more than adequately reflects "current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values".

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

A review was conducted to determine if any new information, studies, and/or analyses has been collected/completed since 1995 that would materially differ from that collected/completed during the RMP/EIS process. No new information was found that would significantly change the substance of the analysis in the RMP/EIS. However, some recent information is available that supports the analysis in that LUP. It is as follows:

Over the past 4 or 5 years, juniper control and some burning activities have been done within scattered portions of this allotment with more planned for the future. The juniper treatment activities were done for fuels reduction and to enhance ecological conditions for primarily wildlife by removing invasive (not old growth) juniper in areas that should be dominated by shrubs (primarily mountain big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush) and bunchgrasses (Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrasses, and others) as the natural and desired plant community. This juniper control work is consistent with, and to a large extent required by, the KFRA RMP/EIS and subsequent ROD and has enhanced ecological conditions on this allotment.

However, the following information is pertinent to the full addressing of this NEPA adequacy

question:

- The analyses done during the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Planning (ICBEMP) efforts has not indicated any new or significant information that would modify the management direction in this allotment; that plan's broad scale not allowing for the specificity of the KFRA RMP.

- Very few rangeland monitoring studies (or other resource studies) have been performed on this allotment since it is a lower priority "M" (maintenance) category allotment that is moderate in size and intermingled with and "land-locked" by private lands limiting many management options. Besides the invasive juniper problem there have been no other indications in recent years that the allotment has any significant livestock grazing related resource problems that need extensive monitoring. Recent casual checks of the allotment have indicated that the current grazing use is consistent with LUP objectives and appropriate for the perpetuation and/or improvement of the vegetation community.

- In accordance with 43 CFR §4180 and related policy direction, the Klamath Falls Resource Area is implementing the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management* (S&G's), as approved by the Klamath PAC/RAC. A "Rangeland Health Standards Assessment" is scheduled for completion on this allotment during FY 2005. The Assessment will ascertain whether current management is meeting, not meeting, or making significant progress towards meeting, the 5 *Standards for Rangeland Health*. The Assessment will be based on information currently available at the time of analysis, including Ecological Site Inventory information that is expected to be collected during the 2003 and/or 2004 field seasons. If the Assessment identifies resource problems that are being caused or perpetuated by livestock grazing, changes in grazing management would be implemented through established processes.

To summarize, the existing analysis and subsequent conclusions in the LUP are still considered valid at this time, including the described and analyzed livestock grazing impacts. Likewise, it is reasonable to conclude that the new information and new circumstances are insignificant with regard to the analysis of the proposed action.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The KFRA RMP/EIS, and subsequent ROD/RMP/RPS, designated domestic livestock grazing as a principle or major use for this allotment under the principle of multiple use on a sustained yield basis in accordance with FLPMA. The development of the Proposed Resource Management Plan in the RMP/EIS, as adjusted or affirmed by the ROD/RMP/RPS, meets NEPA standards for impact analysis. The methodology and analyses employed in the RMP/EIS are still considered valid as this planning effort is relatively recent (ROD - June 1995) and considered up to date procedurally. Litigation related or induced direction since the ROD has not indicated that the LUP "methodology and analytical approach" is dated, obsolete, or in need of amendment. The plan is "maintained" regularly to keep it current by incorporating new information, updating for new policies and procedures, and correcting errors as they are found. In addition, all the rangeland monitoring, studies, and survey methods utilized in the resource area prior to and during the planning process continue to be accepted (or required) BLM methods and procedures.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action is consistent with the impact analysis KFRA RMP/EIS, as affirmed or adjusted by the ROD/RMP/RPS. The impacts of livestock grazing were analyzed in most of the major sections of Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences (pages 4-1 through 4-143) in the RMP/EIS. No new information has come to light since completion of the plan that would indicate that the previously analyzed direct/indirect impacts would be substantially different, though there are some recent (2000) indications that the impacts of livestock grazing are *less* than analyzed.

The details of the proposed action were also covered specifically in Appendix H - *Grazing Management and Rangeland Program Summary* (page H-45) of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS. During the pre-RMP process in 1990-91, a series of IDT meetings were held to specifically address the formulation of objectives for every grazing allotment in the KFRA. These objectives were based on the monitoring (or related) data collected, past allotment categorization efforts (1982, as subsequently revised), as well as professional judgment based on field observations up to that time. Three "Identified Resources Conflicts/Concerns" were listed for Swan Lake Rim, with the accompanying "Management Objectives" - as follows:

Identified Resources Conflicts/Concerns	Management Objectives
Under current management the range condition, or pattern of utilization, and/or season-of-use may be unacceptable; or carrying capacity may be exceeded.	Maintain or improve rangeland condition and productivity through a change in grazing management practices, timing, and/or level of active use.
Critical deer winter range occurs in allotment.	Management systems should reflect the importance of deer winter range.
Potential for grazing/recreation conflicts within the allotment.	Grazing management should consider recreation concerns.

The specific rationales supporting these objectives are not known, as no records from this IDT process exists (or can be found) for this allotment. The "M" category classification for this allotment implies adequate conditions and lack of resource conflicts. However, the rationales behind these objectives can be approximated based on recent observations and information. The recreation objective probably relates to either the potential for deer hunting or wood cutting, though there is no current "conflicts" known and the area has extremely limited public access as private lands surround it. The recent juniper cutting and bitterbrush planting was primarily directed towards addressing the second objective on deer winter range by improving ecological and deer habitat conditions. The first objective on range conditions has not been an issue in recent years (or at the time of its ranking as an "M" allotment during the early 1990's) though will be addressed in the future during the previously noted Assessment process.

In summary, it is thought at this time, based on current information and judgment, that this NEPA Adequacy "question" is in the affirmative; that the direct and indirect impacts of re-issuing this grazing permit are unchanged from that identified in the LUP and that plan also adequately analyzes the site-specific impacts.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from

those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action as analyzed in the PRMP of the KFRA RMP/EIS, as affirmed or adjusted by the ROD/RMP/RPS, would not change analysis of cumulative impacts. Any adverse cumulative impacts are the same as and within the parameters of those identified and accepted in that earlier planning effort for this allotments grazing use, since the proposed action was specifically analyzed in the RMP/EIS. In addition, the recent analyses in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) have not indicated any cumulative impacts beyond those anticipated in the earlier analyses. (In addition, the ICBEMP, due to its regional approach, does not have the specificity of the RMP.)

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The KFRA RMP/EIS and ROD/RMP/RPS were distributed to all interested publics and other government agencies for review. Since this proposed permit issuance is as listed in the LUP - and that plan went through all of the appropriate and legally required public/agency review - public involvement is considered at least adequate.

All of those publics/agencies have also been kept informed of plan implementation through periodic planning update reports (i.e. May 1995, October 1997, February 1999, July 2000, and August 2002). These planning updates, or Annual Program Summaries as they are now called, include information on range program and project accomplishments, updates to the RPS, monitoring accomplishment reports, planned activities for the upcoming year, allotment evaluation and Standards and Guidelines assessments scheduling, and other information necessary to allow for adequate public involvement opportunities.

No specific public involvement, or "interested public" status (under the grazing regulations at 43 CFR 4100.0-5), has been requested for this allotment, with the exception of the existing permittee, who is granted automatic status.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Bill Lindsey	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Author/Range

(See cover sheet for other participants and/or reviewers)

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

Specifically for this allotment, 200 acres of vegetation (juniper) control and the development of a spring were listed in Appendix H, "*Potential Range Improvements by Allotment*" -page H-67. Some of the vegetation treatment has been done, though the allotment will continue to receive some juniper control activities, which in hand with that already completed, should improve ecological, watershed, and wildlife habitat conditions. The allotment is scheduled for a

Rangeland Health Standards Assessment in 2005. That Assessment could (though is not expected to) propose grazing management changes or other mitigation measures at that time.

CONCLUSION



Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

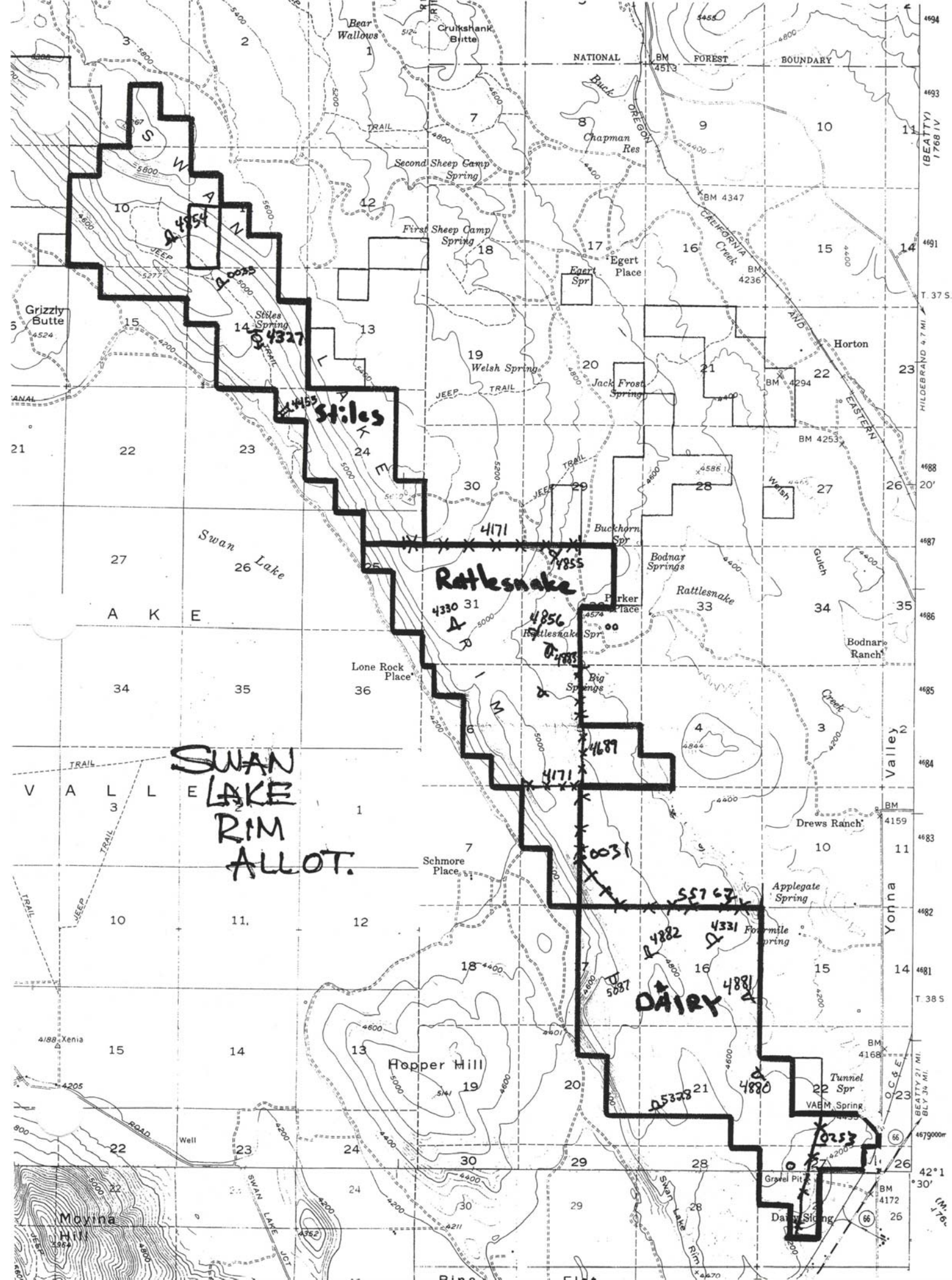
(Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked.)

Jessica Ramo

Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Jan 30, 2003

Date



Klamath Falls Resource Area NEPA Document Routing Slip for Internal Review

Project Name: SWAN LAKE RIM (SWAN LAKE RANCH) GRAZING LEASE
 Date Initiated: 12/19/02 RENEWAL

Resource or Staff Responsible	Review Priority	Preliminary Review Date/Initials	Comments Attached/Incorporated	Final Review Date/Initials
Manager: Teri Raml	Last			<u>TR</u>
Branch Chief: Barbara Ditman	Second to Last		<u>NONE</u>	<u>BDR 1/23/03</u>
Branch Chief: Larry Frazier	Second to Last			
Branch Chief: Mel Crockett	Second to Last			
Planner/EC: Don Hoffheins, Kathy Lindsey	Third from Last			
Range: Bill Lindsey, Dana Eckard			<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>12/19/02</u>
Wild Horses: Tonya Pinckney				
Fire/Air Quality: Joe Foran				
Silviculture: Bill Johnson, Gabi Sommerauer				
Timber: Mike Bechdolt				
Botany/ACEC/Noxious Weeds: Lou Whiteaker		<u>JW 1/22/03</u>	<u>Survey in 1998 covered 22/3 of this area - a few weeds - no special status sp.</u>	<u>JW 2/22/03</u>
Soils: Jannice & Mike Cutler				
Cultural: Tim Canaday		<u>TC 1/21/03</u>	<u>NO Survey required as long as there are no improvements / ground disturbance</u>	<u>TC 1/21/03</u>
Minerals/HazMat: Tom Nottingham				
lands/Realty: Linda Younger				
Recreation/Visual/Wilderness: Scott Senter				
Hydrology/Riparian: Mike Turaski, Andy Hamilton				
Wildlife/T&E: Gayle Sitter		<u>St. 1/15/03</u>	<u>add other Nrga.</u>	<u>St. 1/15/03</u>
Fisheries/T&E: Scott Snedaker				
W/S Rivers: Grant Weidenbach				
Engineering: Brian McCarty				
Survey/Manage: Molly Juillerat				
Clearances/Surveys	Needed	Done/Attached	<p>*This document will not sit on your desk for more than 8 hours. Please check on calendar to make sure that the next person will be available to review the document.</p> <p>**Some resource areas may not apply for all projects. If so, just mark "N/A" in "Review Priority" column.</p>	
Cultural		<u>TC 1/21/03</u>		
Botanical		<u>JW 1/22/03 partially</u>		
T&E, BA & or Consultation				
R-O-W Permits				